

Amendments to the Claims:

This list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for treating municipal sewage system wastewater comprising:

means for introducing at least one alkane into the municipal sewage system wastewater; and

means for introducing an oxygen-containing gas into the municipal sewage system wastewater.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the ~~oxygen is introduced in the form of~~ oxygen-containing gas comprises air.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the at least one alkane comprises butane.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the butane stimulates the growth of butane-utilizing bacteria.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the butane-utilizing bacteria comprise aerobic bacteria.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the butane-utilizing bacteria comprise anaerobic bacteria.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the municipal sewage system wastewater comprises sludge.

Claims 9-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): An apparatus for treating municipal sewage system wastewater comprising:

a municipal sewage system wastewater containment vessel; ~~[[and]]~~

a source of butane and/or propane;

a source of an oxygen-containing gas;

at least one ~~alkane~~ butane and/or propane injector in flow communication with the source of butane and/or propane and the municipal sewage system wastewater containment vessel; and

at least one oxygen-containing gas injector in flow communication with the municipal sewage system wastewater containment vessel.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~[[14]]~~ 13, wherein the oxygen-containing gas ~~injector injects air into the wastewater containment vessel~~ comprises air.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the ~~alkane butane and/or propane~~ injector injects butane into the municipal sewage system wastewater containment vessel.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the municipal sewage system wastewater comprises sludge.

Claims 18-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (new): The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the at least one alkane comprises propane.

Claim 23 (new): The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the butane and/or propane injector injects propane into the municipal sewage system wastewater containment vessel.